CONFIDENTIAL

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
FAR EAST COMMAND

26362

CHECK SHEET

(Do not remove from attached sheets)

File No: Subject: Japan Foreign Legion in China TI/LJF/RHC/bd

Note No.	From: G-2	To: CofS	Date: 23 Aug 49

1 1. Although action on the attached radio (Tab 1) was assigned to the Diplomatic Section, it is believed that the following comments will be of interest in view of the numerous reports received pertaining to this subject:

a. In recent months, especially since the appointment of Marshal YEN Hsi-shan to the Premiership in early June 49, frequent reports have been received concerning the proposed recruitment of Japanese for a Nationalist "Foreign Legion" in China and to serve with the Nationalist Air Force. Although the sources of most of this information have been Chinese press releases or CCD mail intercepts, an official report from SANA, Nanking, 29 July 49, states that the Nationalist Cabinet on 23 July authorized enlistment of US, Japanese, and other foreigners in a Chinese "Foreign Legion". The Attache doubted the ability of the Nationalists to pay for such a plan. (Int Summary 2519).

b. A recent official report (B-3) from Canton, states that Premier YEN is considering sending former Defense Minister HO Ying-chin to Japan to gain support of former Japanese generals who were classmates of YEN and HO in the Tokyo Military Academy in an attempt to enlist the services of Japanese soldiers for the Nationalist Army (Int Summary 2530).

c. The information contained in subject radio also is covered in Int Summary 2530.

d. It is conceivable that Premier YEN Hsi-shan would attempt to enlist the services of Japanese military personnel as he did in Shansi Province immediately after World War II. At that time he had approximately 6,500 Japanese soldiers in his provincial army, including four Japanese generals. Most top military leaders in the Nationalist Government are graduates of Japanese military academies. They no doubt realize the fighting qualities of Japanese soldiers and desire their service in an attempt to bolster the rapidly disintegrating Nationalist armies.

e. The recent visit of WU Teh-chen to Tokyo gave rise to local gossip that the mission contacted several Japanese ex-officers, with a view of securing their services in Formosa. Surreptitious shipments of some personnel is alleged to have taken place already. CIC is investigating.

1 Incl.
DA Rad 091319Z
AG 98617,10aug49

C.A.W.

FEC ~~AGO Form No. 37~~ 6005-26-8-47-64ENGR-50,000

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, FAR EAST COMMAND
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
RADIO AND CABLE CENTER

10 Aug 49

ROUTINE

FROM: DA WASH DC

TO : CINCFE TOKYO JAPAN

NR : 091319Z (RELAYS MSG FROM STATE DEPT DTG 091155Z) (SENT DEPT 3118 AUG 8, 9 PM RPT NANKING 1721, OFFEMB CANTON 966, CANTON POUCH HONG KONG, USPOLAD, TOKYO 162, FROM SHANGHAI)

Re Hsin Hwa Aug 6 report charging KMT conscripting 100,000 Japanese troops to support remnant Nationalist forces, Democratic League member told officer CONGEN that Chen Chung-Fu (Matthews 339, 1504, 1936) former Japanese puppet, now in Hong Kong working on scheme to enlist Japanese support in anti-Communist movement allegedly in cooperation Li Tsung-Jen. While CONGEN in no position to verify this report, rumors of Japanese participation as part of Nationalist "Foreign Legion" fairly widespread in Shanghai.

MCCONAUGHY

ACTION: DIPLOMATIC

INFO : COMMANDER IN CHIEF, CHIEF OF STAFF, G-2

98617 ROUTINE TOO: 091319Z
MCN: 50760

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